

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 02063 271058Z

14-11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 270803Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1410

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2063

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TORREJON AFB
SUBJ: TRANSIT BY SENIOR US OFFICIALS THROUGH
TORREJON

FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GEORGE SPRINGSTEEN FROM THE
AMBASSADOR

1. AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN PROBLEMS WHICH AROSE THIS
MORNING IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSIT THROUGH TORREJON
OF VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER, I SHOULD APPRECIATE YOUR
ASSISTANCE TO TRY TO AVOID SUCH PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE.

2. I WAS INFORMED AT 8:15 THIS MORNING THROUGH THE AIR
FORCE THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE ARRIVING AT
TORREJON AT 11:00 A.M. AND THAT HE WOULD REMAIN THERE
DURING REFUELING FOR AN HOUR. SINCE TORREJON IS A SPANISH
BASE, EVEN THOUGH WE, OF COURSE, HAVE EXTENSIVE FACILITIES,
WE INFORMED THE SPANISH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AS A MATTER OF
COURTESY. SOMEWHAT LATER, THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL CALLED
AND SAID THAT THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVT,
THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND HE (THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL)
WOULD ALL GO OUT TO THE AIRPORT TO GREET THE VICE PRESIDENT.
SOME TIME LATER, I WAS ADVISED AGAIN THROUGH THE AIR FORCE THAT
THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS ASLEEP AND WOULD NOT LEAVE
THE PLANE DURING THE REFUELING STOP. WITH MOMENTS
TO SPARE, I WAS ABLE TO REACH THE FIRST VICE
PRESIDENT PERSONALLY AND TELL HIM NOT TO GO TO TORREJON,
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BUT WAS UNABLE TO REACH THE OTHER TWO GENTLEMEN WHO MADE

THE TRIP OUT FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL. I WENT OUT TO TORREJON MYSELF AND EXPLAINED TO THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT LEAVE THE PLANE. THEY FULLY UNDERSTOOD HIS DESIRE TO REST AND THEY RETURNED TO MADRID.

3. I RECOGNIZE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP WERE MADE VERY MUCH AT THE LAST MINUTE, BUT IT WOULD HELP ME A GREAT DEAL IF IN THE FUTURE WHEN VERY SENIOR US CIVILIAN OFFICIALS ARE GOING TO TRANSIT TORREJON, I COULD BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE BY THE DEPT, OR EVEN DIRECTLY BY THE WHITE HOUSE, OF THIS TRANSIT AND WHAT THE OFFICIALS' WISHES MAY BE WITH REGARD TO RECEIVING SPANISH OFFICIALS. OBVIOUSLY, IN THE CASE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE GOS WAS MOST DESIROUS TO SHOW EVERY COURTESY TO HIM, AND SINCE WE ARE DEALING HERE WITH A SPANISH BASE ON SPANISH TERRITORY, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO DEFLECT THEIR COURTEOUS INTENTIONS UNLESS I HAVE A CLEAR INDICATION FROM WASHINGTON AS TO WHAT IS WANTED.

4. I KNOW THAT YOU KNOW THAT I UNDERSTAND THE MANY DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN PUTTING TOGETHER A VIP TRIP OF THIS TYPE AT THE LAST MOMENT. HOWEVER, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD KEEP IN MIND THE SPECIAL PROBLEM THAT WE HAVE HERE WITH REGARD TO TRANSIT OF VERY SENIOR CIVILIAN OFFICIALS THROUGH TORREJON.

STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, VICE PRESIDENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID02063
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750107-0153
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750310/aaaaaipr.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSIT BY SENIOR US OFFICIALS THROUGH TORREJON
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006